

LAWN DAMAGE FROM SNOW PLOWS

Message to Westford residents:

The Highway Department is getting numerous calls regarding lawn damage from snow plowing operations over this past winter.

In most cases the damage that is being reported is limited to within the Town right of way. Private property lot lines are typically located 10 to 15 feet in from the edge of the pavement.

Although we take great care at minimizing road shoulder damage it sometimes is unavoidable. The reasons for this are twofold: First, we must push the snow beyond the edge of the pavement after each snowstorm to allow for the storage of snow for successive storms over the winter. Second, in addition to our Highway Department work force and equipment the Town retains the services of approximately 18 contracted plows to assist us with snow plowing operations. Sometimes we get new contractors and/or drivers that may not be familiar with the local roads and not knowing the geometry of the road can result in snow being pushed further into the shoulder area than necessary.

We are asking residents to kindly help the Highway Department by making repairs to lawn damage between their lot lines and the edge of the pavement. For the removal of broken asphalt berm please contact the Highway Department office at 978-692-5520. At the present time we are addressing the most severe cases of lawn damage but we do not currently have the resources to address it all at once.

We recommend for the upcoming winter season that residents place a row of snow markers in front of their lawns about two feet in from the edge of the pavement (if placed too close to the edge of the pavement they will be knocked out by the weight of the snow or by the plow) to provide guidance to plow drivers.

Thank you for your cooperation.